



STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sean Parnell, Governor
Susan K. Bell, Commissioner
T. W. Patch, Chairman

Regulatory Commission of Alaska

February 4, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Room TW-A325
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51; Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket No. 07-135; High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; Developing an Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, CC Docket No. 01-92; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45; Lifeline and Link-Up, WC Docket No. 03-109; Universal Service Reform-Mobility Fund, WT Docket No. 10-208

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On February 4, 2013, Mr. Jim Rowe of the Alaska Telephone Association, Mr. Kip Knudsen and Mr. Nathan Butzlaff of Alaska Governor Sean Parnell's Washington, DC based staff, and I met at the FCC's offices with Commissioner Ajit V. Pai and his legal advisor, Mr. Nicholas Degani. Our discussion touched on how Alaska's lack of roads and electric grids as well as other factors such as extensive reliance on satellite make application of national models to Alaska's service providers inappropriate. We also discussed how regulatory uncertainty is hampering Alaska's carriers' ability to invest and borrow the funds needed to move towards universal broadband.

Additionally we reviewed the importance of universal and affordable voice service, including mobility, if broadband service is not feasible in parts of Alaska for the time being, and how access to the internet, while expensive in remote parts of Alaska, provides much greater value than it may in other parts of the country.

Finally, we offered the assistance of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska to the FCC as it continues with the reform process.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TWP' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

T.W. Patch
Chairman

cc: Commissioner Ajit V. Pai
Governor Sean Parnell
Nicholas Degani, Legal Advisor, Office of FCC Commissioner Pai
Kip Knudsen
Nathan Butzlaff
Jim Rowe